

### REMARKS

The Office is requested to consider the following remarks when further evaluating the patentability of the claims as presented herein.

#### Claim Amendments

Applicant requests the amendments to the claims set forth above be entered in the present application.

Claim 9 is amended as requested by the examiner in the advisory action. By this amendment, Applicant does not capitulate that this amendment is necessary or required for patentability; does not disclaim the scope or the subject matter of the claim as previously presented; and reserves the right to present the claim as previously presented in a divisional application.

Claim 27 is amended as requested by the examiner in the advisory action. By this amendment, Applicant does not capitulate that this amendment is necessary or required for patentability; does not disclaim the scope or the subject matter of the claim as previously presented; and reserves the right to present the claim as previously presented in a divisional application.

#### Information Disclosure Statements

Applicant filed an information disclosure statement (IDS) on 24 October 2002. (PAIR notes this document logged in on 1 November 2002.) However, there has been no indication in any Office action thus far that this IDS was considered by the Office. Applicant requested the Office consider the IDS in Applicant's amendment dated 23 February 2004 and again in Applicant's amendment dated 14 September 2004. However, neither the 21 June 2004 final Office action nor the 20 October 2004 Advisory Action indicates that the references submitted by Applicant have been considered. Applicant therefore again requests the Office acknowledge its review of the 24 October 2002 IDS in the notice of allowance to ensure that the references appear on the face of the patent. A copy of this previously filed IDS is provided herewith for the convenience of the examiner.

#### Conclusion

Applicant believes that the amendments to the claims overcome the objections of the examiner and place the remaining claims in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore

requests speedy issuance of a notice of allowance and acknowledgement that each previously submitted IDS has been considered.

Respectfully submitted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December 2004.



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